

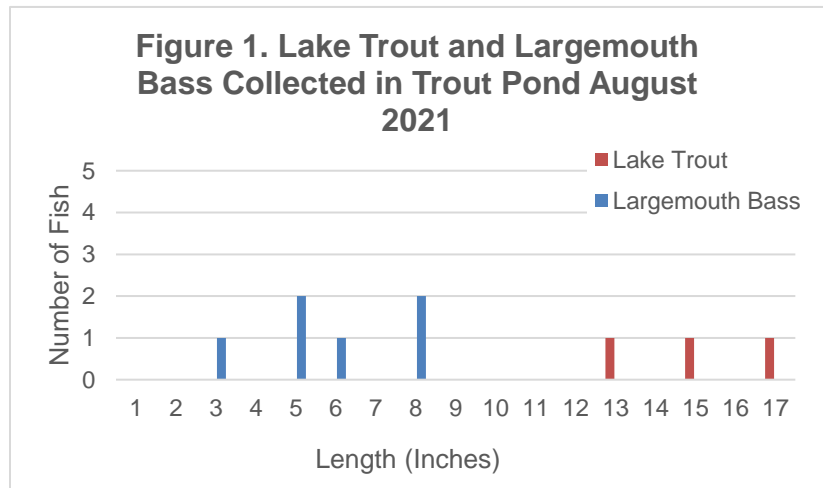
Trout Pond Brook Trout Survey (Survey #:621210)
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Trout Pond (SL-1-P109-11-P144-1-P145-2-2-P146), also known as Big Trout Pond, is 167-acres with a maximum depth of 183 feet and is located in the Round Lake Wilderness Area in southern St. Lawrence County. Round whitefish were stocked in 2000 and 2001 as part of an effort to restore a New York State endangered species. Surveys conducted in 2002 (round whitefish n=5), 2003 (n=5), 2009 (n=27), 2011 (n=29) and 2014 (n=15), determined round whitefish survived the stocking and reproduced. Currently, Trout Pond is stocked with Temiscamie hybrid brook trout fingerlings each fall. Largemouth bass were first documented in the pond in 2014. A wild population of lake trout also exists. Special trout fishing regulations include use or possession of baitfish is prohibited, ice fishing is prohibited, and brook trout open season is April 1 – October 15 with a daily limit of five with no minimum length. Four experimental gill nets and one minnow net were set overnight to assess the current brook trout stockings. Angling was also used to supplement catch data.

The nets were set near shore to target brook trout; however, no brook trout were captured during this survey. Interestingly, one brook trout was observed during angling efforts over deep water in the middle of the lake. Largemouth bass and lake trout dominated the catch. Six largemouth bass were collected ranging in length between 3.5 and 8.7 inches with an average length of 6.4 inches. Despite not targeting the wild lake trout population, three lake trout were collected and ranged in

length between 13 and 17.9 inches with an average length of 15.5 inches. Lake trout otolith age interpretation indicated they were 8 to 12 years old.



Although this pond does not seem to have habitat favorable for largemouth bass, the recent introduction of largemouth bass is likely impacting stocked brook trout survival. Lake trout may also prey on the stocked brook trout. We recommend that fingerling brook trout no longer be stocked and that this water be managed as a wild lake trout water. Given the previous sampling efforts targeted at stocked round whitefish, it is recommended that survey efforts continue periodically to monitor these fish as well as the wild lake trout population.

